

MAGISTRATES' CLOSED DOORS

CLAUSE OF CITY CHARTER CUT FROM THE NEW LAW.

Made Open Meetings of the Board Mandatory. Inferior Courts Commission Took No Testimony on the Subject, but the Clause Was Stripped Out.

The fact that the provision of the Greater New York Charter requiring that all meetings of the Board of City Magistrates shall be public has been dropped out of the new inferior courts law. It did not become known generally until the meeting of the Board of Magistrates on Monday afternoon, when the members decided that because the mandatory provision requiring open meetings had been eliminated it was discretionary with the board whether the meeting should be public or private. They voted by a large majority for private meetings.

It was said yesterday in behalf of the board that the reason the proceedings of the board will not be open to reporters thereafter is that open meetings do not conduce to free discussion.

"During these discussions a good deal is said that is of no interest to the public," said one magistrate. "For instance, this afternoon we found that the Callan automobile law was presenting something of a problem to us in various ways, and we talked over it for an hour. The majority of the magistrates feel that when they concur in an important question it is perfectly proper for the public to know what is done about it, but they believe that it can serve no good purpose to publish the preliminary discussions."

This magistrate said that one of the reasons that induced the vote to hold private meetings is that the Judges of General and Special Sessions have meetings to discuss questions of procedure which have always been private, and there is no reason why a distinction should be drawn between the Magistrates and the judges of the higher criminal courts.

Chief Magistrate McAdoo said that in spite of the decision to hold private meetings any person can see the sessions by the use of his spectacles and upon application to the office such inquiries will be allowed. These minutes will be a complete record of everything that is done and will prove that although the meetings are private there is no action by the board that requires concealment," he said.

It was impossible to say Saturday at what stage of its progress through the legislature the inferior courts bill, which the old charter requirement for public meetings of the magistrates, or whether the framers of the bill eliminated the provision at the very outset. It was known, however, that the bill was introduced into the Legislature by Senator McAdoo, who was then testimony that the publicity requirement was detrimental to the efficient work of the magistrates.

All the magistrates who were not sitting yesterday met at Chief Magistrate McAdoo's office to consider the bill and its appearance in the legislature. The Board of Estimate has authorized the board to consider the bill, which appears to have the blessing of 115 police commissioners to the courts and the Municipal Service commission, a sufficient number to pass the bill.

On the first day of the bill's introduction, the committee of the Board of Estimate voted to refer the bill to the Committee on Rules, and the bill was referred to the Committee on Rules.

"As a matter of fact," Mr. Mitchell said, "what is known as the private construction plan is very close to that for public construction. It provides that the title to the subway shall immediately pass to the city after building, the contractor retaining only a lien upon the property which may be terminated any time by the city upon payment of the entire cost of construction with interest. However, it is improbable that the city will have \$60,000,000, when the amount required to pay over in a lump sum."

The acting Mayor was asked about the statement of Chairman Wilcox of the Public Service Commission to the effect that the advertising was awaiting action by the Corporation Counsel.

"I do not wish what I say to be construed as a criticism of the Public Service Commission," said Mr. Mitchell. "What I am sure that Mr. Wilcox meant was that these matters were in Mr. Watson's hands pending the getting together of the transit committee of the Board of Estimate with the commission as to advertising. The plans have not been in Mr. Watson's hands for more than two weeks. It would hardly be expected

that the Corporation Counsel could check up in a few minutes the work of two years."

Mr. Mitchell said that the transit committee believed that the changes they had suggested would save the city several million dollars.

"The Board of Estimate," he said, "has pledged itself to authorize the expenditure of \$60,000,000 for subways this year, and it will do what it has promised."

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ONE OF THE BEST COMEDIES OF RECENT YEARS. GOOD ACTION, COMMERCIAL SUCCESS, AMERICAN THE AUDIENCE ROARED WITH LAUGHTER. MAKE GO TO SEE HIM LAUGH WITH HIS LAUGH JOURNAL.

MR. EDINGER RECEIVED A GREAT OVATION. RUE SUN LIETS WAITING RIDEENDER TO STELLAR DESTINATION. EXTRAS MATINEE, TUESDAY.

EXTRA MATINEE, TUESDAY.

MITCHELL'S SUBWAY IDEAS.

Prefers "Public" Building Plan Must Give Watson Time.

Acting Mayor Mitchell said yesterday that while the members of the transit committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment are in harmony with the other members of the board in the matter of subways, he personally prefers the public construction plan as against the "private" plan, bids for which will be advertised for at the same time that the franchises of the bill are called for.

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Camer Drowned From a Canoe.

ASBURY PARK, N. J., Aug. 23.—William Miller of Brooklyn was drowned in Shark River at about midnight last night when a canoe he borrowed from Arthur Champion and a young woman he was in company with capsized.

Champion and the young woman were rescued, they were unconscious. Champion recovered later, but the woman remained unconscious all night, and today all efforts to learn her identity failed.

They were campers and they refuse to give any information about themselves.

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OPENED IN 1870. TABLE D'HÔTEL. Music by THE VIENNA ARTISTS OF HESTRA.

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Second Ave. to Lenox Street, between 50th and 52nd Streets. Open All Day.

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HERALD SQUARE HOTEL, 34th St., just west of Broadway. A la carte.

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51 & 53 W. 23rd St. 200 M. H. 10th St. w. 23rd St.

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An exquisite modern residential hotel, furnished, hot and cold running water, light, desirable location, private family rooms. If desired, minutes from station, 45 min. to New York. 100-110 West 70th St., Room 99, Tribune Building, N. Y. City.

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Rooms 8-10, 1st floor, bath, living room, porch, 6 beds. Bill. W. J. & M. D. PRICE.

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3.50 & \$4.00 SHOES

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THE BRASS BOTTLE

The Romantic Comedy by Astley

THE SPENDTHRIFT

By Edmund Breese

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